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September 3, 2019

Dear Members of the NC State Board of Education:

On this month's SBE agenda, you are scheduled to approve the Report on School Start and End Dates, required by Session Law (S.L.) 2019-165, Section 4.(b).

S.L. 2019-165, Part IV states that the State Board of Education shall report "...all schools that start earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the statutory exception for the earlier start date," as reported by the local boards of education.

The second paragraph of your draft report's "Executive Summary" states, "The State Board of Education shall report the information submitted by the local boards of education to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee."

The information provided by the LEAs begins on page 4, with the header of the last column labeled "DPI's Comments". Nowhere in S.L. 2019-165 does it ask for DPI to render an opinion. The Session Law is quite clear – the State Board is to report information provided by the local boards of education. Additionally, the General Statutes do not define a "year-round" school. NCSBA does not believe it is appropriate for DPI to determine whether LEAs are not in compliance with the law, especially since there is no legal definition of "year-round."

On behalf of the 115 local boards of education, NCSBA respectfully requests that the column with "DPI's Comments" be deleted from the report, which is due to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 15, and corresponding adjustments be made to the *Findings* portion of the document.

We would like to also bring to your attention that the start dates listed for Ashe County Schools (ACS) are incorrect. ACS began on August 15, the same day that the local community college started.

<https://www.asheschools.org/domain/1631>

Thank you for your continued efforts to support our students, our schools, and our local boards of education.

Sincerely,

Leanne E. Winner
Director of Governmental Relations

